IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A holographic recording medium comprising:

a recording layer in which information is to be holographically recorded; and

a light-shielding layer which faces a main surface of the recording layer and whose transmittance for a recording light is increased on increasing intensity of the recording light.

2. (Original) The medium according to claim 1, wherein the light-shielding layer exhibits bleaching property when intensity of the recording light is increased.

3. (Original) The medium according to claim 1, wherein the light-shielding layer contains a transparent material and a dye dissolved or dispersed in the transparent material and exhibiting saturable absorption.

4. (Original) The medium according to claim 1, wherein the recording layer contains organic material.

5. (Original) The medium according to claim 1, wherein the recording layer contains inorganic material.

6.(Original) The medium according to claim 1, further comprising a substrate which supports the recording layer and the light-shielding layer with the recording layer interposed between the substrate and the light-shielding layer.

7.(Original) The medium according to claim 1, further comprising a reflecting layer which is disposed on a side of the recording layer opposite to the light-shielding layer.

8. (Original) The medium according to claim 7, further comprising a substrate between the recording layer and the reflecting layer.

9. (Currently amended) A holographic recording medium comprising:

a recording layer in which information is to be holographically recorded; and

a light-shielding layer which faces a main surface of the recording layer and selectively transmits a recording light, wherein a ratio of a first average transmittance to a second average transmittance is 15 or larger, the first average transmittance being an average transmittance of the light-shielding layer within a wavelength range of λ_{rec} - 10 nm to λ_{rec} + 10 nm where λ_{rec} representing a wavelength of the recording light, and the second average transmittance being an average transmittance of the light-shielding layer within a wavelength range of 300 nm to 600 nm.

10.(Original) The medium according to claim 9, wherein the light-shielding layer contains a transparent material and at least one component selected from the group consisting of a dye dissolved or dispersed in the transparent material, metal particles dispersed in the transparent material, and semiconductor particles dispersed in the transparent material.

11. (Currently amended) [The] A holographic recording medium [according to claim 9] comprising:

a recording layer in which information is to be holographically recorded; and

a light-shielding layer which faces a main surface of the recording layer and selectively transmits a recording light, wherein the light-shielding layer includes a laminate of dielectric layers, materials of the dielectric layers adjacent to each other being different from each other.

12. (Canceled)

13.(Currently amended) The medium according to claim [12] 9, wherein the light-shielding layer contains a transparent material and at least one component selected from the group consisting of a dye dissolved or dispersed in the transparent material, metal particles dispersed in the transparent material, and semiconductor particles dispersed in the transparent material.

14.(Currently amended) The medium according to claim [12] 9, wherein the light-shielding layer includes a laminate of dielectric layers, materials of the dielectric layers adjacent to each other being different from each other.

15. (Original) The medium according to claim 9, wherein the recording layer contains organic material.

16. (Original) The medium according to claim 9, wherein the recording layer contains inorganic material.

17.(Original) The medium according to claim 9, further comprising a substrate which supports the recording layer and the light-shielding layer with the recording layer interposed between the substrate and the light-shielding layer.

18.(Original) The medium according to claim 9, further comprising a reflecting layer which is disposed on a side of the recording layer opposite to the light-shielding layer.

19. (Original) The medium according to claim 18, further comprising a substrate between the recording layer and the reflecting layer.

20. (Canceled)